



weather  
report

79°  
noon  
Thursday





**Today**  
• Sunset, 7:53 p.m.  
**Saturday**  
• Sunrise, 5:53 a.m.  
• Sunset, 7:52 p.m.  
**Midday Conditions**  
• Soil temperature 76 degrees  
• Humidity 66 percent  
• Sky mostly sunny  
• Winds south 7 mph  
• Barometer 30.16 inches  
and steady  
• Record High today 108° (1970)  
• Record Low today 42° (1974)  
**Last 24 Hours\***  
High Wednesday 84°  
Low Wednesday 63°  
Precipitation none  
This month 2.37  
Year to date 16.98  
Above Normal 2.70 inches  
**The Topside Forecast**  
Today: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 3 p.m., a high near 87, winds out of the south at 5 to 15 mph and a low around 65.  
Saturday: Mostly sunny with a high near 96, winds out of the south at 10 mph and a low around 64.  
**Extended Forecast**  
Sunday: Sunny with a high near 96, a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms at night and a low around 65. Monday: Sunny with a high near 95, a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms at night and a low around 65.  
(National Weather Service)  
Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.



**local  
markets**  
**Noon**  
Wheat — \$6.25 bushel  
Posted county price — \$5.40  
Corn — \$3.51 bushel  
Posted county price — \$3.52  
Milo — \$3.22 bushel  
Soybeans — \$9.64 bushel  
Posted county price — \$9.85  
Millet — \$5 hundredweight  
Sunflowers  
Oil current crop — \$15.75 cwt.  
Confection — \$28/\$15 cwt.  
Pinto beans — \$32 (new crop)  
(Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

**inside  
today**

  
More local news and views from your Goodland Star-News



PBR event  
sellout crowd

Robson Aragao of Ara-  
cajo Sergipe, Brazil rode  
the John McDonald bull Big  
Casino to a first round score  
of 87.5. He won the PBR  
event. See story, photo on  
Page 12.



# Morrison wins, mill levy loses

**By Tom Betz**  
*nt.betz@nwkansas.com*

The hot races in Sherman County were on the Republican ballot where Rep. Jim Morrison won renomination for another term in House District 121 defeating Brenda McCants of Goodland and the Sherman County economic development mill levy issue was defeated by a wide margin.

McCants narrowly won Sherman County over Morrison with 601 votes to 584 votes, but Morrison won Thomas County 996 to 428 for McCants. Morrison won Sheridan County 360 to 163 for McCants and Graham County 442 to 204 for McCants. The unofficial total for the four county district gave Morrison 73 percent (2,382) to 37 percent for McCants 1,396.

McCants said Wednesday she was disappointed in the results, but said she felt her



Morrison

supporters had worked hard and had run an excellent campaign.

She said she had called Morrison and congratulated him on his win, and he had told her this was to be his last campaign and hoped she would consider running in two years.

McCants said she was not ready to think about that, but wanted to thank her volunteers including Sue Evans of Colby, campaign treasurer, Attorney Ron Vignery of Goodland, campaign chairman and Tiffini Overstreet, a hard working volunteer.

She said campaigning was great with all the people she met across the district, and that she knows it will take everyone to move things forward for the betterment of northwest Kansas.

Morrison said he had mixed emotions about the race, and complimented McCants for

calling to congratulate him. He said she was the only opponent who has ever bothered to make that call.

He said McCants is “a good friend. She is a very gracious person. We both ran clean campaigns.”

Morrison has served in the House since 1992, and has said this will be his last race. He is unopposed in the General Election in November.

**Economic development issue loses**

The voters turned down the plan for a 2 mill property tax levy for economic development by a wide margin with 969 voting NO and 382 voting YES.

The Sherman County commissioners had passed a resolution to establish the property tax levy for the Sherman County Economic Development Council, and a citizen petition put the issue on the Primary Election ballot.

The council has been funded by \$50,000 from the city and \$50,000 from the county,

and the property tax levy would have given the county about \$125,000 based on the county assessed valuations.

With the measure losing it will be up to the city and county to decide what happens to the economic development program.

“The future is totally up to the city commission and the county commissioners,” said Walt Linthacum, chairman of the development council on Wednesday. “I do feel bad that locally our economy has started to perk up and were were picking up momentum. I hope we don’t lose the momentum due to the decision.

“The last two years have been pretty good to Goodland because the farmers have had crops to sell. I think everyone seems to be listening to the national people about gloom and doom.

“I feel people outside the area will see this

See ELECTION, Page 5

## Moran wins primary race

**By Tom Betz**  
*nt.betz@nwkansas.com*

Sherman County Republican and Democratic voters joined to give nominations to candidates for Senate, 1st Congressional District and governor in Tuesday’s primary election.

Sherman County Republicans gave Jerry Moran a big margin with 77 percent (901 votes) in his race for the Senate nomination against Todd Tiahrt who received 20.5 percent (240). Statewide Moran won the Republican nomination with 161,407 votes for 50 percent while Tiahrt had 144,372 votes for 45 percent.

On the Democratic side Lisa Johnston won the Senate nomination with 31 percent of the vote (25,421) and Charles Schollenberger was second out of the field of five with 24 percent (19,228). Sherman County Democrats backed Johnston with 38.7 percent (60 votes) and the second was Patrick Wiesner who had 30.3 percent (47 votes) and 16 percent statewide (13,359). Schollenberger received 18 percent in Sherman County (28) votes.

In the Big First District Republican race Tim Huelskamp was the big winner both in Sherman County and in the district. Huelskamp won the six-way district race with 35 percent (34,283) ahead of Jim Barnett with 25 percent (24,724) and Tracy Mann with 21 percent (20,924). In Sherman County Huelskamp had 46 percent (538) to 26.4 percent for Mann (304) and 15.4 percent for Bennett. Sue Boldra had 7 percent (80), Wasinger 3.9 percent (45) and Marck Cobb had 9 votes.

Huelskamp will face Democrat Alan Jilka in the General Election. Jilka was unopposed in the primary and received 149 votes in Sherman County.

Sherman County Clerk Janet Rumpel said a total of 1,451 turned out to vote for a 40 percent turnout between those voting in advance and those who voted at the Veterans of Foreign Wars on Tuesday.

Sam Brownback won the Republican nomination for governor with 82 percent (260,356) to 18 percent for Joan Heffington (56,382). In Sherman County Brownback had 83 percent (940) to 17 percent for Heffington (190).

Brownback will face Democrat Tom Holland in November. Holland had 137 votes in Sherman County in the primary.

For secretary of state Republican Kris Kobach was the winner and had 47 percent of the vote in Sherman County (478). J.R. Claeys had 36.5 percent (374) and Elizabeth

See RESULTS, Page 5



## Kids line up to test pedal-pull tractors

About 60 kids ages 4 to 12 lined up in front of the grandstand on Tuesday for the annual Eagle Communications pedal tractor-pull.

The winners qualified for the pull off at the Kansas State Fair coming up Sept. 10 to 19.

Seven 4-years olds started the competition and Jared Linin won with a pull of 24 feet. Second went to Ella Beesley.

Eight 5-year olds got their chance next with Witten Peter winning with a pull of 12’ 11”. Second was Kaden Dorn.

In the 6-year olds Christian Koch was the winner with a pull of 25’ 6” to beat out Chas Conger’s 25’ 2”.

David Wood won the 7-years olds with a pull of 15’ 4”. Jazlyn Fenner was second with a pull of 12’ 11”.

Jorden Siruta won the 8-year old division and Isaac Phillips was second.

Landon Reicks won the 9-year old division and Caden Wilkens was second.

Powell Sieck won the 10-year olds with Britta Beesley second.

Cameron Hann won the 11-year olds with Matthew Wood second.

Jakob Church won the 12-years olds with Koal Artzer second.



David Wood (top) put everything into his winning pull of 15 feet 4 inches in the 7-year old division. Christian Koch (above) had a full pull to win the 6-year old division on Tuesday.  
Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

# City cuts budget, property tax levy for next year

**By Tom Betz**  
*nt.betz@nwkansas.com*

City commissioners will meet in special session at 7 a.m. on Monday to hold a public hearing and approve the budget for next year with a decrease in spending of about \$33,000.

The commissioners spent about four hours going over the budget page by page and with each of the directors of the major departments on Monday, July 26 after a short five minute regular meeting.

City Manager Doug Gerber opened the work session saying, “It is a budget you can adopt with zero changes,” he said. “In the 15 years I have been doing this I always

make that offer. I believe it is a good budget, but I understand you want to go through it.”

He said the assessed valuation has gone up slightly to \$25,322 a property tax mill or an increase of about \$350 per mill. He said the budget proposes a total mill levy of 49.66, which is down about 2 mills from last year.

Commissioner Rick Billinger said it was going in the right direction. This is the third year the city property tax levy has gone down.

Based on a residential home appraised at \$100,000 the annual property taxes could go down by about \$23.60, and for a commercial business appraised at \$75,000 the

property taxes could go down about \$38.50.

Gerber said that is the city portion, and the final property tax bill an owner receives will depend on what the school district and county does with their budgets.

He said he felt the city staff wants to make sure the budget is neutral.

“I think it is important to drop taxes,” Gerber said, “but believe it is sometimes better to keep it up a bit rather than having to increase by a large amount.”

He said the county was affecting the budget with cuts to the cemetery and an adjustment to the recreation fund.

The water fund was a major con-

cern Gerber said.

“We do not have money to transfer from water to general to cover the expenses,” he said. “Water fund cannot afford it.”

“What we have paid out in the past couple of years we are using that transfer,” Billinger said.

Gerber said to balance the water budget they had to use some of the reserves. Water is a separate fund and he said the proposed increase of \$5 a month on the base is a start to balance the fund, but said he feels that may not be enough.

Billinger said it would be good to get that in place to see what the income does.

Gerber said the drop in water

sales has continued this year with the rains and the closing of two motels.

Payment on the water collection and treatment project is included with one payment on the loan for next year plus and estimated cost of \$30,000 for treatment chemicals.

When the water project is completed the commission will consider how to pay the loan to the state. In December the commissioners talked about using existing city reserves to pay off the loan to save about \$1 million in interest cost. Gerber said the staff is looking at how to cash

See CITY, Page 11